

BRADYPUS TRIDACTYLUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Dentes primores nulli utrinque.

Laniarii obtusi, solitarii, molaribus longiores, occurrantes.

Molares utrinque 5, obtusi.

Corpus pilis tectum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 50.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

BRADYPUS pedibus tridactylis, cauda brevi.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 50.

Hoc animali vix aliud aspectu deformius et inelegantius potest excogitari. Species ita in tabula depicta, in America Australi nascitur; sedem sibi quærens in defertissimis locis, ubi otium turbare nec possint homines aut alia animantia. Negat celeberrimus Naturæ scrutator Buffonius reperiri posse aliquid in hoc animali quod mundani systematis vel usui vel decori inserviat; clamitans monstrum esse informe, sine arte et consilio factum, et ad solas ærumnas aptum. Nec mirum, ait ille; magna enim pars hominum vix fato meliore gaudet. Pace tamen tanti viri, (qui sæpe seria cum ludicris permiscet) liceat mihi dicere hoc ipsum animal tam vile, tam visu fœdum, pro suis vitæ moribus suisque propriis

priis amœnitatibus non minus apte et idonee formari, quam alia animantia, queis melior forma et ingenium vividius obtigerint. Fructibus præcipue vescitur Bradypus; sed et folia ipsa lubenter comedit. Motu incedit languido et tardissimo. Vocem emittere dicitur tam ultra fidem singularem, tam miseranter ejulantem, vultu simul adeo lachrymoso, ut audientium misericordiam et fastidium commoveat. Insolitum hunc clamorem, (a natura, ut credere par est pro defensione datum) simul ac audierint alia animalia, terrore percita in fugam se recipiunt. Nec tamen vox et præterea nihil, quo se defendat data est; adeo enim robore præpollet Bradypus, ut canem, unguibus suis prehensum, vehementer renitentem, et omni vi evadere conantem mordicus retineat, donec ipsa fame consumptum miserit. Tantam enim ipse tolerare potest abstinentiam, ut trunco appensus, sine esca aut potu, per mensem integrum duraverit, vix tandem fame et languore consumptus. Patet hoc a mirando Kircheri experimento.

Alia exstat Bradypii species; huic valde similis; cui tamen pedes anteriores duobus tantum unguibus muniti sunt.



Pub. Sept^r. 1789 by F. P. Dodder

& Co. N^o. 13. Pall Mall Street.

THE
THREE-TOED SLOTH.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

No *Cutting-Teeth* in either Jaw.

Canine Teeth obtuse, single, longer than the grinders, placed opposite.

Grinders five on each side, obtuse.

Fore-Legs much longer than the hind.

Claws very long. [Linnaeus and Pennant.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

SLOTH, with three toes on each foot, and a very short tail; size of a smallish dog.

THREE-TOED SLOTH.

Pennant. Hist. Quadr. p. 494.

L'AI.

[*Buffon. vol. XIII. p. 34. tab. 5. 6.*

So extraordinary is the union of awkwardness and ugliness in this uncommon creature, that it has generally been regarded as one of the most striking examples of animal deformity. The species here exhibited, is a native of South America, where it resides in solitary places, and where its quietude is least liable to be disturbed by Man or other animals. A celebrated Naturalist, the Count de BUFFON, will not allow this creature to have any share in contributing to the general beauty in the chain of beings, but regards it as an ill-constructed mass of deformity, created only for misery, which he
thinks

